Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12342 150755Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 FEA-01 /063 W
----------035582 150758Z /17
P R 150725Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0169
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA BA JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12342

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JA, US
SUBJECT: CENTRIST PARTIES PLAN U.S. VISITS

SUMMARY. LEADERS OF DSP, CGP AND NLC RECENTLY ASKED AMBASSADOR FOR ASSISTANCE WITH UPCOMING PARTY MISSIONS TO WASHINGTON. THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BE AS ACCOMMODATING AS POSSIBLE TO THESE GROUPS. WE WOULD ALSO URGE THAT, WITHIN LIMITS OF POSSIBLE, WASHINGTON STRIVE FOR COMPARABLE HANDLING. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S JUST-CONCLUDED ROUND OF COURTESY CALLS ON POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS, CHAIRMEN OF THREE CENTRIST PARTIES--DSP, NLC AND CGP-- EACH MENTIONED INTENTION TO SEND PARTY MISSION TO WASHINGTON THIS FALL. SPECIFICALLY:

--DSP VICE CHAIRMAN RYOSAKU SASAKI AND THREE OTHER DSP DIET MEMBERS WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 11 FOR TEN-DAY STAY. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12342 150755Z

ENERGY MATTERS (SASAKI IS OUT OF ELECTION POWER WORKERS UNION) AND SECURITY ISSUES, A LONG-TIME DSP CONCERN. THEY ASKED AMBASSADOR'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. AMBASSADOR, WHILE WELCOMING VISIT, POINTED OUT THAT BOTH MEN WERE LIKELY TO BE VERY BUSY DURING SEPTEMBER.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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--NLC LEADER YOHEI KONO TOLD AMBASSADOR HE PLANNED TO BE IN WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 19-20 TO DROP IN ON "SANTA BARBARA CONFERENCE ON KOREA" BEING ORGANIZED BY RICHARD BARNET. KONO ALSO PLANNED OTHER WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS BUT GAVE NO SPECIFICS. HIS VISIT WILL COME ON HEELS OF ONE-WEEK NLC MISSION TO PRC WHICH HE WILL LEAD. AGAIN, AMBASSADOR WELCOMED VISIT AND OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN MAKING WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS.

--CGP CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI TOLD AMBASSADOR CGP SECGEN YANO WOULD LEAD PARTY DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, PROBABLY IN NOVEMBER. TAKEIRI POINTED OUT THAT "CIRCUMSTANCES" (ACTUALLY STATE DEPT RECOMMENDATION) HAD FORCED POSTPONEMENT OF YANO'S INTENDED APRIL VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND HOPED WE WOULD FIND NOVEMBER CONVENIENT. AMBASSADOR WELCOMED VISIT AND OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN SECURING APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS. CGP INTERNATIONAL BUREAU DIRECTOR KUROYANAGI LATER TOLD US THAT SUBJECT TO DIET SCHEDULE, THEY PLAN ONE WEEK VISIT PROBABLY BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1-20.

2. COMMENT. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT AT OUTSET OF NEW ADMINISTRATION EMBASSY WAS DELUGED WITH REQUESTS FOR OPPOSITION PARTY VISITS TO WASHINGTON, INCLUDING OVERTURES FROM CENTRIST PARTIES. WE PUT THESE OFF AT THE TIME BUT INDICATED WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO COOPERATE
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IN MAKING APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS LATER IN YEAR. NOW THAT WE ARE BEING APPROACHED AGAIN WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE ACCOMMODATING, ESPECIALLY INASMUCH AS POLITICAL PARTY BALANCE IN BOTH HOUSES IS NOW SO EVEN THAT CENTRIST PARTIES CARRY INCREASING WEIGHT.

3. UNFORTUNATELY, JAPANESE MEDIA, AND THEREFORE POLITICIANS, TEND TO MEASURE "SUCCESS" OF OVERSEAS VISITS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN TERMS OF HIGHEST RANKING FOREIGN OFFICIAL SEEN. WE REALIZE, OF COURSE, THERE ARE CONTINUING EXTRAORDINARY DEMANDS FOR TOP US OFFICIALS' TIME, AND REALIZE ALSO SPECIAL DIFFICULITIES CREATED BY SEPTEMBER CONCENTRATION OF JAPANESE VISITORS TO WASHINGTON. WE URGE, HOWEVER, THAT APPROPRIATE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION BE PAID THEM, AND THAT WASHINGTON STRIVE FOR COMPARA-BILITY OF HANDLING, I.E., WITHIN LIMITS OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE, TOP-RANKING US OFFICIAL SEEN BY EACH GROUP OF VISITORS BE ROUGHLY COMPARABLE.
MANSFIELD

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINT, JA, US, DSP, CGP, NLC, (SASAKI, RYOSAKU), (KONO, YOHEI), (TAKEIRI),
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